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INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The Vorsemester (preparatory schools) of the universities are an important element of the Russian Zone school reforms. The announced purpose of a two-year attendance at the Vorsemester is to give intelligent young people from the working class an opportunity to qualify for university and college work. The real purpose is to break the educational privileges of the bourgeoisie, to drive the truly democratic elements away from the universities, and to fill the universities with people loyal to the SED and SMA. Every young, ambitious person who has taken an active part in the reconstruction of his
2. [REDACTED]
performance records in the Communist Party of Western German, and also those who are sons and daughters of party persons, most of whom are very unintelligent.
2. The SED dominates the Vorsemester, 80 percent of all students being SED members. SED meetings show an attendance of no more than 10 percent. SED spies keep a
3. [REDACTED]
from the university. Most of them are completely disinterested in politics, a few being strong Marxists and a very few carrying on silent, but bitter, opposition.
4. A new Vorsemester student may choose linguistics or a natural sciences curriculum. In linguistics emphasis is placed on German, Latin, Russian, and English; in natural sciences emphasis is on mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, German and Russian. Russian is required in both courses. History instruction is based on the materialistic concept - the subordination of the individual to the nation in the making of history. Current history includes current political affairs, the history of socialism and philosophy and the philosophy of Marxism. Remarks about ideologies of other parties are confined to the statement that they are confirmed reactionaries because they reject progress - Russian socialism in the Marxist-Leninist manner which brings joy
5. [REDACTED]

CLASSIFICATION

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5. Classes contain five to thirty students in the age group 18-28 years. Learning is extremely difficult since almost no textbooks are available and students must rely on lecture notes for study material. The SED, the FDGB, and the FDJ each have a representative in each class. The remaining students form a more or less faithful herd who patiently endure the democratic decisions, since they realize that they are weak and would harm themselves by any opposition.
6. The food is better than that received by the rest of the population. Students have Card #2, plus one loaf of bread a week, and 560 grams of oil and 100 pounds of potatoes per semester. The stipendium amounts to 65 to 85 marks for local students and 100 to 120 marks for non-resident students. Married students receive 150 marks plus 30 marks per child; regardless of the children's legitimacy. Therefore, if two students marry, they receive 300 marks plus 30 marks per child. Housing conditions in Halle are very poor. A single room costs at least 25 marks and a double room at least 40 marks.

7. Source supplies the following vignettes on the faculty:

Maria Burstein - principal, member of the SED and of the VVN. Fanatical hater of all former SPD members; very few friends; difficult to get along with. Teaches current history and tries hard to make Marxists out of the students.

Felix Jensen - teaches current history and history. He himself is still studying philosophy and Russian history. He was an officer; joined the NKFD, and became a functionary in a PW camp. Describes himself as a Marxist. SED member. His instruction is soporific.

Dr. Schmidt-Glennewinkel - teaches mathematics, physics, and chemistry, Brilliant natural scientist. Worked in the Kaiser-Wilhelm Institute for Atomic Research.

Dr. Treschnak - teaches mathematics, studied ancient languages, Sanskrit, and Ugro-Altaic. Source considers him the best teacher in the Vorsemester.

Frl. Cron - teaches physics and mathematics. Has been threatened with dismissal repeatedly for continuous criticism of the SED and the Vorsemester. Her teaching methods are good.

Herr Schneider - teaches German and Latin. Friendly and helpful. Refugee from Upper Silesia, former member of the SPD, now SED, carries on opposition wherever possible. During the Nazi regime he belonged to an illegal SPD group. He proclaimed in class: "Humanity is not yet ripe for socialism and we cannot bring about a new epoch of humanity by revolution, but humanity must grow into socialism."

Dr. Herrmann - teaches mathematics and physics. Politically retiring.

Dr. Schwarze - teaches biology and chemistry. Very interesting instructor. Politically completely neutral.

Frl. Kittlaus - teaches chemistry and biology. Rambling and boring.

Dr. Selle - teaches German. Rambles. Politically neutral.

Frl. von Radetzki and Frl. Windisch - Both teach Russian. No adverse comments.

Herr Cario - teaches chemistry and biology.

Herr Kirchner - teaches history, current history, and Greek. Was a LDP member: teaches Marxism like the most convinced Marxist, but makes it rather ridiculous.